

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic component mounting apparatus comprising:
a component feeding unit feeding an electronic component;
a suction nozzle picking up the electronic component from the component feeding unit
and mounting the electronic component on a printed board; [[and]]
a position sensor ~~measuring~~ sensing a vertical position of a lower end of the suction
nozzle after the suction nozzle releases the electronic component to the printed board and before
a vertical movement of the suction nozzle for picking up the next electronic component from the
component feeding unit is performed; and
a drive source moving the suction nozzle vertically and a control device determining a
range of the vertical movement of the suction nozzle for picking up the next electronic
component based on the vertical position of the lower end of the suction nozzle sensed by the
position sensor.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The electronic component mounting apparatus of claim 1,
further comprising a decision device judging that the suction nozzle is about to fall when the
vertical position of the lower end of the suction nozzle ~~measured~~ sensed by the position sensor is
lower than a predetermined position.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The electronic component mounting apparatus of claim 1, wherein the
position sensor comprises a line sensor.
7. (Withdrawn) An electronic component mounting apparatus comprising: a plurality of
component feeding units feeding electronic components; a plurality of suction nozzles provided
on a mounting head for picking up the electronic components from the component feeding units

and mounting the electronic components on a printed board; a line sensor unit comprising a first light source and a light receiving device, the line sensor being configured to measure a vertical position of a lower end of each of the suction nozzles after the suction nozzles release the electronic components to the printed board; a second light source provided in the line sensor unit in addition to the first light source; and a decision device judging that a suction nozzle is about to fall when an amount of light received by the light receiving device from the first and second light sources is below a predetermined amount.

8. (Withdrawn) The electronic component mounting apparatus of claim 7, wherein the decision device does not judge the suction nozzles that are mounted on the mounting head and have mounted at least one electric component on the printed board.

9. (Withdrawn) The electronic component mounting apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a nozzle select and switch device replacing a suction nozzle used in a first mounting operation with a suction nozzle selected for a second mounting operation, wherein the decision device does not judge the suction nozzles that are selected by the nozzle selection and switch device and mounted on the mounting head.

10. (Currently Amended) The electronic component mounting apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a decision device judging that the suction nozzle is worn when the vertical position of the lower end of the suction nozzle ~~measured~~ sensed by the position sensor is higher than a predetermined position.